UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26316
17 August 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

# LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the large-scale offensive by the Armenian armed forces against the Djebrail and Fizuli districts of Azerbaijan, which has been continuing over the past several days, has created an extremely difficult situation in the region.

The Armenian army has besieged the district centres of Djebrail and Fizuli, having seized practically all the surrounding villages. There are numerous casualties among the peaceful population. Panic-stricken refugees are streaming from these regions towards the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As they advance, the Armenian armed forces are using modern armoured equipment, tanks and manpower which were transported ahead of time from Armenia to the combat zone.

The Armenian army is directing its basic strikes towards the south in the hope of reaching the Azerbaijani-Iranian border, which lies at a distance of only 25 kilometres from it. If these plans are carried out, four districts of Azerbaijan - Fizuli, Djebrail, Kubatly and Zangelan, with a population of more than 200,000 persons and an overall area of 3.9 thousand square kilometres - will be cut off from the Republic.

Moreover, this will also increase the distance between the Nakhichevan region of Azerbaijan and the remaining part of the Republic from 46 kilometres to 136 kilometres, which will make it absolutely impossible to transport goods to that blockaded region of the Republic. Under an agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, humanitarian shipments are being delivered to Nakhichevan through that country's territory across a bridge recently built over the frontier river Araz in the Djebrail district of Azerbaijan.

In connection with what has been stated above, I request you to consider and take as soon as possible all necessary measures to halt the open annexation of Azerbaijani lands by the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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